S-12

SRS FILE COPY

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT : Threat to CIA by Some "Black Power" Elements

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. The growing hostility expressed toward this Agency by some of the more volatile advocates of so-called "black power" presents this Agency with what might be a new threat to its operations abroad and its image in the United States.

3. In the past, denunciation of the Agency by a scattered few for the alleged Agency "assassination" of Patrice Lamumba and Malcolm X. Little might have been dismissed as natural fall-out from embittered followers of the two, seeking a publicly-recognizable scapegoat, and necessarily distorting the true facts behind the deaths to have them "prove" the case against the scapegoat. Presently, however, the growing militancy of "black power" disciples--with clear links to both Maoist and Moscow Communist ideologies--and similarly clear threats to counter this Agency's activities, necessitates placing the problem in an entirely new perspective.

4. The term "black power," despite its militant origins, has been accepted by some to describe the laudable efforts of academic "self-help" and "pride of race" efforts of many Negroes at the community and collegiate level. Indeed, some of these of sincere dedication to the orthodox civil rights movement have accepted the use of the term "black power" to describe their efforts. This presents the problems of separating these constructive efforts--and adherents--from those who seek the destruction of the legally constituted government of this nation.

5. At least two organizations, the National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, have questioned the motives and tactics of those who advocate "black power" and "black rebellion," and such respected Negro journalists as Carl T. Rowan and George Schuyler have warned against the militants. In its report for Fiscal Year 1967, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has pointed out that "So-called civil rights organizations preaching hatred for the white race, demanding immunity from laws, and advocating violence constitute a serious threat to this country's internal security." (Emphasis added) The FBI annual report specifically names the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Revolutionary Action Movement as hoping "to disrupt the tranquility of our Nation with violence to further the concept of 'black power.'" According to the FBI report, "Leaders of these groups constantly attempt to spread domestic discord among Negroes by making inflammatory speeches and issuing hate-filled literature." (The same report warns of such militant organizations as the Movimento Pro Independencia de Puerto Rico, a group which has signed an "accord" to work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.) State and Federal legislative committees have taken notice of the Communist links to some of the militant groups.

6. In many ways this information is illuminating, yet in other ways it presents the problem of careful evaluation. Most certainly, all past members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee cannot be charged with being a threat to the Nation's internal security, whereas those who support the statements and activities of the present leadership of SNCC must remain suspect. Similarly, those who have adhered to the tenets of the Revolutionary Action Movement, even in its early days, must be considered more than suspect.

7. Because of this matter of "degree" of involvement in the unfavorable, indeed dangerous, aspects of "black power," this office has compiled from its records those personalities (Tab A), and organizations (Tab B) which must be of our official concern. Two organizations which have to date resisted the blandishments of "black power" leaders are indicated in Tab C. Many of the personalities and

organizations in Tab A and Tab B have not specifically attacked this Agency, although the anti-U. S. policy stance of some of them may make this only a temporary reprieve. Others have not specifically spoken out against the Agency, and by their nature, will probably never single out this Agency for abuse or organized opposition.

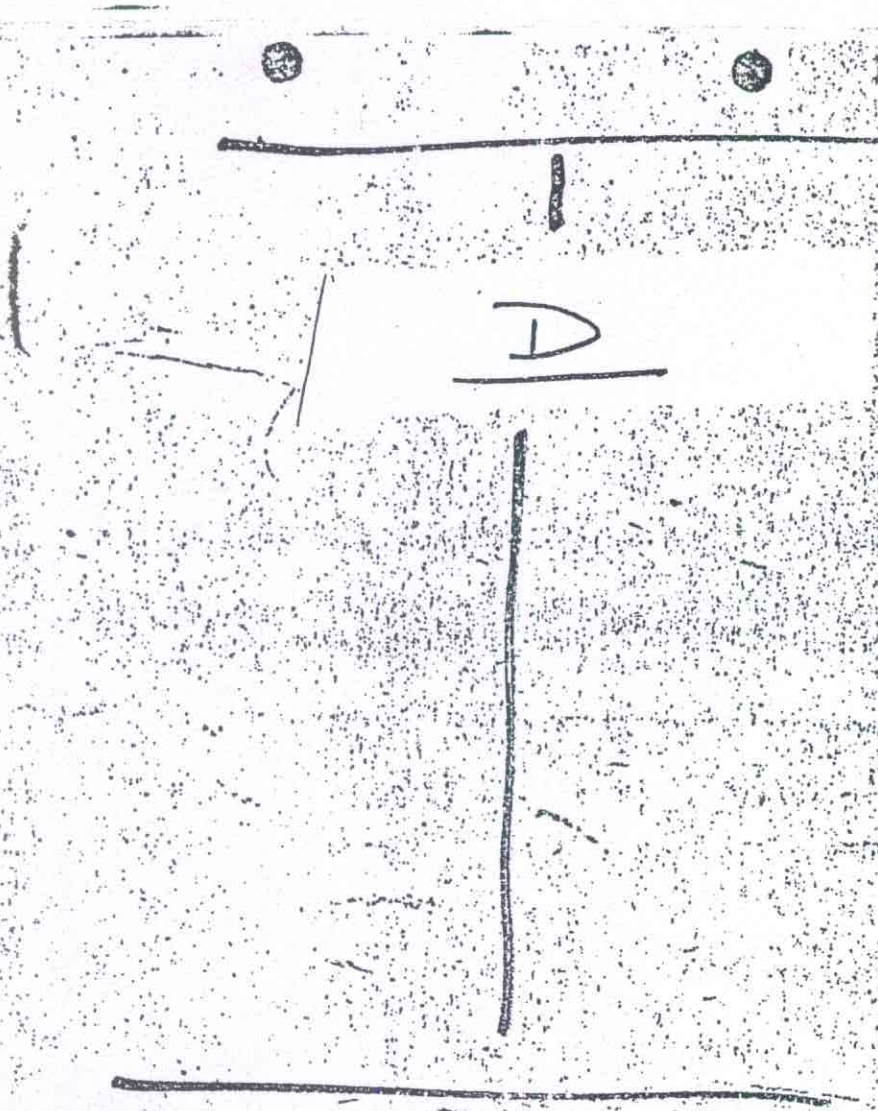
8. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised that it knows of no organized "black power" assault on this Agency other than the statement of Stokely Carmichael that he is establishing a new group to oppose CIA activities. Our records presently contain information on open attacks on CIA by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, the Afro-American Heritage Association, and the Organization of Afro-American Unity, the latter being the organization founded by the late Malcolm X. Little, and to individuals affiliated with a number of militant groups. Should information be received which significantly supplements that contained in the attachments to this memorandum, you will be advised.

Howard J. Osborn
Director of Security

Attachments:
Tabs A, B, C

Orig - Ref to CS
1 - DDS

CS/SRS/ [redacted] /cer



KING, Martin Luther, Jr. - Rev. King heads the Southern Christian Leadership Conference which the Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American Activities, State of Louisiana, reported on 13 April 1961 to be "substantially under the control of the Communist Party. . ." Dr. King and his wife have been outspoken critics of U.S. Vietnam policy. Dr. King is known to have two advisors who were identified in the past with the Communist cause, and his deputy, Rev. James Bevel who heads the National Mobilization, has been quoted as stating "every thinking American" should be a member of the Communist Party. Dr. King more recently has proposed extended civil disobedience in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1968. Although Dr. King has participated in "peace" marches in the past, he sent his regrets to the 21-23 October 1967 Pentagon protestors, indicating that he would have attended if other commitments had not precluded it.